

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 303628

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, AWACS, MARR, DA

SUBJECT: NATO AWACS: DANISH POSITION ON INITIAL
COMPUTER R AND D FUNDING

REFS: (A) COPENHAGEN 7310, DTG 091635Z DEC 77
(B) COPENHAGEN 7168, DTG 051340Z DEC 77
(C) STATE 280670, DTG 231713Z NOV77

1. DURING DECEMBER 6/7 MINISTERIAL DPC DISCUSSION
OF NATO AWACS, MOD SOGAARD DID NOT COMMIT DENMARK
TO CONTRIBUTE PROPOSED MINOR SHARE NATION 50,000 DOLLARS
SHARE TO FUND INITIAL R AND D ON THE AWACS COMPUTER.
OTHER MINOR SHARE NATIONS (NORWAY, BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG,
PORTUGAL, AND TURKEY) DID SO COMMIT. (THE NETHERLANDS
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MOD DID NOT SPEAK TO THE POINT; THE ITALIAN MOD
PLEDGED A TOKEN 1M DOLLARS TO THE PROGRAM, PRESUMABLY
50,000 DOLLARS OF WHICH IS AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY;
GREECE WAS NOT PRESENT). THE DPC COMMUNIQUE ALSO
STATES "MINISTERS AGREED TO INITIATE THE NECESSARY
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES LEADING TO A
STANDARDIZED E-3A AIRCRAFT..."

USEFUL REPORTING (REFS A AND B) THAT DANES DO SUPPORT THE NATO AWACS PROGRAM AND THAT MINISTER SOGAARD'S STANCE AT THE DECEMBER DPC WAS DESIGNED AS A "NEGOTIATING TACTIC" DIRECTED TO GAIN INFRA-STRUCTURE SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DANISH LOW-LEVEL RADAR SYSTEM. WE HAVE ALREADY INDICATED TO THE DANES (REF C) THAT WE AGREE THAT THEIR GROUND RADARS WOULD BE USEFUL AND WE HOPE THAT THEY CAN AT LEAST BE PARTIALLY FUNDED THROUGH NATO INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET. HOWEVER, THAT DECISION -- WHICH IS RESPONSIBILITY OF MNC'S -- IS NOT LIKELY BEFORE CONSIDERABLY LATER NEXT SPRING. FUNDING FOR THE AWACS COMPUTER R AND D IS NEEDED NOW.

3. THEREFORE, IF EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION, PLEASE CONVEY TO DANISH OFFICIALS AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OUR HOPE THAT IN VIEW OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE'S AFFIRMATIVE STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT, AND NOTING THAT DANISH MOD SOGAARD DID NOT DISASSOCIATE DENMARK FROM THE COMMUNIQUE, DENMARK WILL PROVIDE ITS 50,000 DOLLAR SHARE FOR INITIAL AWACS COMPUTER R AND D. YOU SHOULD ALSO MAKE THE POINT THAT WHILE A VERY SMALL SUM INDEED IS INVOLVED HERE, CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ALL PROSPECTIVE PARTNERS IN THE PROGRAM WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT CONFIDENTIAL

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POSITIVE POLITICAL IMPACT. WE TRUST DENMARK WILL WISH TO PLAY ITS ROLE IN THIS. IF IT IS NECESSARY FOR DOMESTIC REASONS -- E.G. PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATIONS -- THAT DENMARK DEFER HER CONTRIBUTION UNTIL LATER THIS SPRING, THEN A STATEMENT OF INTENT TO CONTRIBUTE AT SOME POINT BEFORE JUNE 1978, CONTINGENT UPON PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL, WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL.

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